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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

signed

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. Hei 8-65534 is discussed on pages 7 and 9 of the specification. Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. Hei. 9-186894 is discussed on pages 8 and 10 of the specification. Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. Hei 8-204973 is discussed on pages 6, 8 and 11 of the specification. Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. Hei. 8-116456 is discussed on page 9 of the specification.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each of the listed documents is material or constitutes "prior art." If it should be determined that each of the listed documents does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

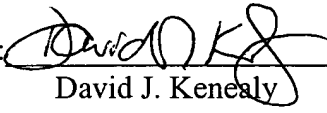
Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.

50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR
EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: January 18, 2001

By: 
David J. Kenealy
Reg. No. 40,411

CUSTOMER NO. 009629
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-5869
Telephone: (202) 467-7000
Facsimile: (202) 467-7176